

THE CONTEST OF 1860.
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**VIRGINIA WHIG STATE CONVENTION.**

speech of John Hiner Botts on the issues  
of the Day—The Opposition Ele-  
ments at Work.

OUR RICHMOND CORRESPONDENCE.  
RICHMOND, Feb. 11, 1859.  
The Convention met this morning at 10 o'clock, to re-  
soly to adjournment.  
The Committee on Nominations not being prepared to re-  
port, calls were made for Vincent Wiltcher of Pittsylvania,  
and Mr. Wigner of Hagerstown, but they were not present.

Mr. R. H. DELANY, of London, one of our most successful farmers, was then called upon. He responded in a brief speech replete with abuse of the democratic party. Mr. B. H. SHACKLEFORD, of Fauquier, next followed in a short speech, in which he reviewed the course of John C. Calhoun, referring with peculiar emphasis to his connection with the slave trade.

Mr. R. E. Scott, from the committee to recommend suitable persons for nomination to the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, arose and said the committee charged with the duty of recommending to this convention suitable persons to fill the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General,

have instructed me this morning to make further reports  
in conclusion of this proceeding. On yesterday  
the committee had the good fortune of recom-  
mending to this Convention a gentleman to fill  
the office of chief magistrate of this State, and  
to find their selection unanimous among themselves,  
unanimously approved by this body. We pre-

broach. I trust, sir, that in announcing the names of those who are recommended for the office of a Lieut. Governor and Attorney General, this body will find that we have a few more of the same kind left. (Applause.) For the office of Lieut. Governor I am directed by the committee to recommend to this body the name of Weitzman H. Wiley, of Monongaham, and for the office of Attorney General the name of Walter Preston, of Washington county. On a vote taken the following names were adopted:

The report was unanimously adopted, each name being separately brought before the convention.

The wing ticket stated that:—

FOR GOVERNOR,  
HON. WM. L. GOGGIN, of Bedford county.

FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR,  
WEITMAN T. WILLEY, of Montgomery county.

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
WALTER FURSTON, of Washington county.

After the nominations were announced, loud calls were made for Eotis, who came forward, and, after a few preliminary remarks in acknowledgment of the tokens of respect shown him, said:

have accepted an invitation to address the Order of the United Americans in the Academy of Music in the city of New York on the 22d of this month, in which I have endeavored to present my views upon all the questions connected with the condition of the country at the present time—in which I have undertaken to portray the deplorable condition to which this country has been reduced, the causes that have led to it and the remedies to be applied—in which I have done

...but in comparing hands with the democracy of this country—(applause)—to whom I have traced as with a pencil of light, to that every man can understand who can read the Lord's prayer—every calamity, every evil and every ill that has befallen this nation for the last thirty years, I ought, perhaps, to make an exception of the malleolus, of the cholera and of the yellow fever. (Laughter.) I ought, perhaps, to make an exception of these, while I think it extremely probable they were all in-

produced by some democrat into the country, I have no statistical data upon which to base the fact—I would not hazard the conjecture. (Laughter and applause.) Now, Mr. President, I understand—for my information has been such that I am not able to attend this meeting regularly—I understand that some doubts have been expressed in this Convention as to the success of the election on which we are about to enter. Sr., I am not one of those who ever

prepared of stories in a good case. (Applause.) My  
 conservative conviction is that if this State is canvassed as  
 it can be canvassed, and as it ought to be canvassed, the  
 election of our party is certain. (Applause.) Now, sir,  
 why do I say so? I know it will be regarded as an ex-  
 travagant opinion by wingers and democrats. Why do I  
 say so? It is because I believe there is as much honesty  
 and patriotism in the ranks of the democracy, among the  
 masses of the people, as there is among the masses of our

ary. (Applause.) Whatever of corruption there is, is among the leaders, and not among the masses. I believe that they are as much devoted to the institutions of this country; that they are as much informed on wholesome legislation; that they are as much devoted to the interests of their families and the liberties of the country, as our own people. I believe that if you will go to any member of the wing party and satisfy him that his house is on fire he will not hesitate to assist you in extinguishing the

...I intend, on the other hand, that if you will approach a man of the other party, and prove by your demonstration, and show to him that his house is in flames, he will be just as ready to preserve as a man of our own party. And, sir, I do not speak it in disavowal of the democratic party when I say that they are as profoundly ignorant of the true condition of this country as the people of Russia. They know as much in Russia of the state of this country

the democracy of Virginia do. They know more of it in England, where I had the pleasure of meeting you, sir addressing himself to the President, Wm. B. Preston), a short time since. And why? They are not permitted to know it—the opportunity is not afforded them to know it. They have not the facilities; they are held from them. It has been the misfortune of this commonwealth that it has not been canvassed since 1844. And during the greater part of that time, and from that time to this, we

have had direct representatives in Congress who have abused their privileges, and instead of using that franking privilege or the occasional benefit of the entire community, they have doctored this State and the South with nothing but democratic documents and speeches, never permitting their own people to have an opportunity of seeing at opposition speech or document; and if one of these has ever sent a whig speech or a whig document into the State, it has been, sir, to some gentleman of the

Yours truly, those opinions were not to be influenced by them, and whose opinions were already made up. Now, sir, I believe that if this State is properly canvassed, and the eyes of the people opened to the true condition of their house and the evils therein existing, they will be as ready in voting to correct them as our own people. And though I may be pardoned by this Convention for stating in a very modest way my own opinion of another reason as to why we have not been successful be-

time, to men of our party, do not think that the principles we advocate are right and just in themselves. The democratic party themselves are beginning to acknowledge that this government is about to be administered upon the principles. (Applause.) The time will shortly arrive when nothing but a big policy will be recognized in this government; and we are indebted to experience—we are indebted to the nerve and experience of the people for it, and not to our own exertion. The reason that we have

on which this government ought to be administered, and which we have endeavored to force upon the public mind, has arisen from our own timidity and our own cowardice. We have always had some tender footed gentlemen in our ranks—gentlemen who carry pins and needles in their shoes, and who could not stand firmly upon the truth, for fear it would hurt them at home. Now, all we had to do, believing these great truths to be essential

hid a wall behind and a wall on either side, so as to leave no room for retreat and no means of escape save through the front door. (Applause.) But what has been our policy? Always to have a back door for retreat; and when you are whipped day, instead of renewing your energies for a fight to-morrow, you lay down your arms at discretion and get away through the back door. (Laughter.) Is it not so? It is not so, and tomorrow for

en my policy. (Applause.) I take occasion to say that I do not deem it necessary to stand here to deduce my sition. My position, I think, is too well known in this Commonwealth to render it necessary for me again to deduce it. I have bared my head to the pitiless storm for which I have wrapped myself in the panoply of truth, and which was more impervious than the skin of the rhinoceros, until every shaft has fallen harmless at my feet—  
[The speaker bowed to the audience.]

ave, in a lofty spirit of magnanimity and a just appreciation of my position, acknowledged their error. (His vision was made to Mr. Ridgway, of the *Waig*.) And thus day redeemed, regenerate and disenthralled that universal spirit of truth. (Loud applause.) Now, gentlemen, upon what principles are we going to conduct this State election? What are the issues that we are going to make? As my honorable friend the President told you yesterday, as I tell you now, this is the time for

and harmony. I come here to war upon no man's opinions, but to express my own freely and counsel with this party. (Applause.) There are many older and many able heads in this Convention than mine. There are many younger and more inexperienced heads than mine. There are a few, however, in this Convention, of any age, who have had more experience in public life and more to do with the democratic party than I have had. (Applause.) And there are not many anywhere else.

party better than I do. (Laughter and applause.) There is a question which, as a matter of course, cannot be overlooked, and that is the position of a democratic party upon the question of slavery. Now, gentlemen, I do not believe you are going to make a great deal out of that question. There is one feature in that question upon which you may make, and will make, capital, if judiciously handled; and that is the readiness of a party to divide the commonwealth of Virginia, for the

pose of emancipating slavery in the western portion of the State. I do not think you will make much out of the other part of the question, for I do not believe the democracy, as a body, care one copper about it. They have used it only as a football for party purposes. (Laughter.) They have shown their readiness, upon all occasions and at all times, to sacrifice the best interests of the South in order to perpetuate their own power. Why, sir, what are you to do, to grow